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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/761,939	01/16/2001	Everett Arthur Corl JR.	RAL920000090US1	5563
25299	7590	02/06/2004	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION			FILIPCZYK, MARCIN R	
PO BOX 12195			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
DEPT 9CCA, BLDG 002			2171	
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709			5	

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/761,939	CORL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Marc R Filipczyk	2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 January 2001.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 6-25 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 January 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3 .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) 4 .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

This Action is responsive to application filed on January 16, 2001 in which claims 1-25 are presented for examination. However, as a result of Examiner's request for Restriction, Applicant elected Group I, claims 1-5 with traverse. Information disclosure statement (IDS) and the change of address of power attorney have been noted (paper # 2 and 3).

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-5 are drawn to partitioning database, classified in class 707, subclass 101.
 - II. Claims 6-12 are drawn to searching a database, classified in class 707, subclass 3.
 - III. Claims 13-18 are drawn to grouping data, classified in class 707, subclass 6.
 - IV. Claims 19-25 are drawn to database structure threshold processing, classified in class 707, subclass 103Y.
2. Inventions I, II, III and IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable.

In the instant case invention I (partitioning database) has separate utility such as database compilation. Invention II (searching database) has separate utility such as with any other search systems. Invention III (grouping data) has separate utility such as pattern matching. Finally, invention IV (database structure threshold processing) has separate utility such as with any other structure processing.

3. Because these inventions are distinct and search Groups I, II, III and IV are not required to be simultaneous, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
4. Examiner has conducted a telephone interview with Joscelyn Cockburn on February 2, 2004 wherein the Applicants elected Group I, claims 1-5 with traverse.
5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following change is suggested: the segment of the title ending with "efficient enforcement" should be replaced or deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 2-4, the phrases "the step" and "packets" are indefinite. What is the step? Where are the packets from and how do the algorithms retrieve them? Further, "FM" and "SMT" algorithms are indefinite.

Regarding claim 5, the segment, "fields within each rules" is indefinite. What does fields within each rule(s) mean?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Irwin (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,683).

Regarding claim 1, Irwin discloses a system and method comprising:

providing a database of rules; (fig. 5)

applying an algorithm to the database to identify Almost-Exact rules and Other rules;

(abstract)

partitioning the database so that the Almost-Exact rules are grouped into one or more groups; (fig. 5, section 1) and,

partitioning the database so that the Other rules are grouped in at least one separate group (fig. 5, section 2).

Regarding claim 2, Irwin discloses a step of using search algorithm to test data with the Almost-Exact rules in the group (fig. 6, item 66).

Regarding claim 3, further includes a step of using algorithm to test packets with the Other rules in the separate group (fig. 6, item 64).

Regarding claim 4, further includes the step of using a Content-Addressable Memory (CAM) to test packets with the other rules in the separate group (fig. 6, item 64).

Regarding claim 5, further includes the database of rules is being partitioned as a function of fields (fig. 5, item 78).

Conclusion

To expedite the process of examination Examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. 35 U.S.C. 112, objections and the like) set forth by the Examiner, that Applicants provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where the best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R Filipczyk whose telephone number is 703-305-7156. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

MF
February 3, 2004

AM
SAFET METJAHIC
SUPPLY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100